The Voice of the University of Toronto at Mississauga

THE MEDIUM

VOLUME 31 ISSUE 24 MARCH 21, 2005

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Expressive Photography

Motion for U-Pass in the works by student leaders

BY DANIEL-FILIPE MARTINS

UTM bus-riders weary of having to buy tickets every week have some hope for the future, as student leaders, university administration and Mississauga Transit (MT) officials met this past week to discuss the implementation of a U-Pass program for UTM students. The scheme, should it come to be, would allow all UTM undergraduates to ride Mississauga Transit for free, in exchange for a per-semester levy included in incidental fees. However, students won't see the program in place for at least another year, and not without first being endorsed in a student referendum.

Aubrey Iwaniw, UTM's Environmental Affairs officer, said that with the increased routes and improved service that would have to be in place before the program could be implemented, taking the bus to UTM would be a logical choice; as it would improve air-quality and take a bite out of the extreme traffic congestion that constantly plagues UTM.

"It's important to me that students don't see this as just a fee, but as a service," Iwaniw said. "With all the parking problems [at UTM], it would be responsible [for students] to vote yes. Students should be transit users."

Iwaniw said that she believed that support for a U-Pass program among students would be high, based on an online survey conducted by Student Centre Events which showed that, out of 250 respondents, 62% supported a U-Pass system in theory, compared to 19% opposed.

Erindale College Student Union (ECSU) President Sean O'Connell emphasized the inevitable worsening of the parking problem at UTM as the principle driving force behind this new push for a U-Pass. O'Connell pointed out that although the university had approved the building of a new parking garage which would add a projected 500 spaces, students would be robbed of up to 500 existing spaces for the duration of its construction.

"As the [UTM] population rises and parking spaces are stagnant, we'll have increased pressures," O'Connell explained. "If transit is free, more people will use transit and less will use parking. People could get into the habit in, say, a year."

The construction of the new garage has since been postponed for a year, which ECSU, the Students' Adminis-

Please see MT on page 3

Politics and Pizza

photo/Adrian Barek

Students and student governors munched on free pizza during the Erindale College Students' Union (ECSU) Annual General Meeting, held in the Student Centre last Thursday. The meeting is a yearly event to discuss issues and report on the progress - or lack thereof - that ECSU has achieved. The meeting started late as ECSU had trouble reaching quorum of thirty full time students. Once the meeting was underway and the pizza had been eaten, a number of students left, forcing the meeting to stop since quorum must be maintained throughout. Eventually students were recruited and the meeting concluded.

Free meningitis C vaccine clinic at UTM sees a 'disappointing' number of students immunized

BY JULIE TYIOS

Students born in 1985 or later were offered a free meningitis C vaccine at a day-long clinic on campus last Wednesday, compliments of Peel Regional Health, however only 223 students bothered to take advantage of the services.

Meningitis C is a particular strain of the deadly bacterial disease, which affects the spinal cord and brain, and can cause paralysis or death in some cases. People within the young adult age group of 15-24 are at a potentially higher risk than children or adults, and the provincial government has recently taken steps to immunize those as young as 14 against the disease; due to the steady increase in the number of cases that have taken place in the last decade.

Once a person contracts the disease, a swelling of the brain and spinal cord occur, which can cause potential brain damage, paralysis and death. Meningitis has a swift onset and is often only detectable through blood samples, which can take over a day to process, during which the disease can cause irreversible damage. Common symptoms include a high fever, headache, back and neck stiffness, vomiting, confusion and in the later stages, seizures. Anyone exhibiting any of these symptoms should seek professional medical attention immediatcly.

Students, especially those who live in residence, seem to be at a higher risk for contracting meningitis C, due to the close living quarters and increase of risky behaviour-including sharing cutlery, dinnerware, cigarettes and drinks with friends. The meningitis C bacteria are spread through saliva, so generally only those who participate in such activities are at risk. Most outbreaks in recent years have taken place at universities and colleges all across North America, and more health professionals are urging those entering post-secondary academic institutions to get immunized against the disease.

The Ontario government has made a move to encourage the general popultion to obtain a meningitis

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MONDAY MOVIE MADNESS

THIS MONDAY
March 21st
12 - American History X
2 - The Princess Bride
4 - The Goonies
6 - ECSU Film Festival

THE DETAILS
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NEXT MONDAY
March 28th
12:00 - Ocean's 12
2:30 - Phantom of the Opera
5:00 - Ocean's 12

SC EVENTS

University seeks ruling to end mandatory retirement at age 65

By Julie Tyios

Negotiations between the University of Toronto and the University of Toronto Faculty Association (UTFA) have put an official end to the university's mandatory retirement rule for faculty and librarians at the age of 65.

The decision still must be ratified by the university's Governing Council and the UTFA, but many are optimistic that the landmark motion will go through.

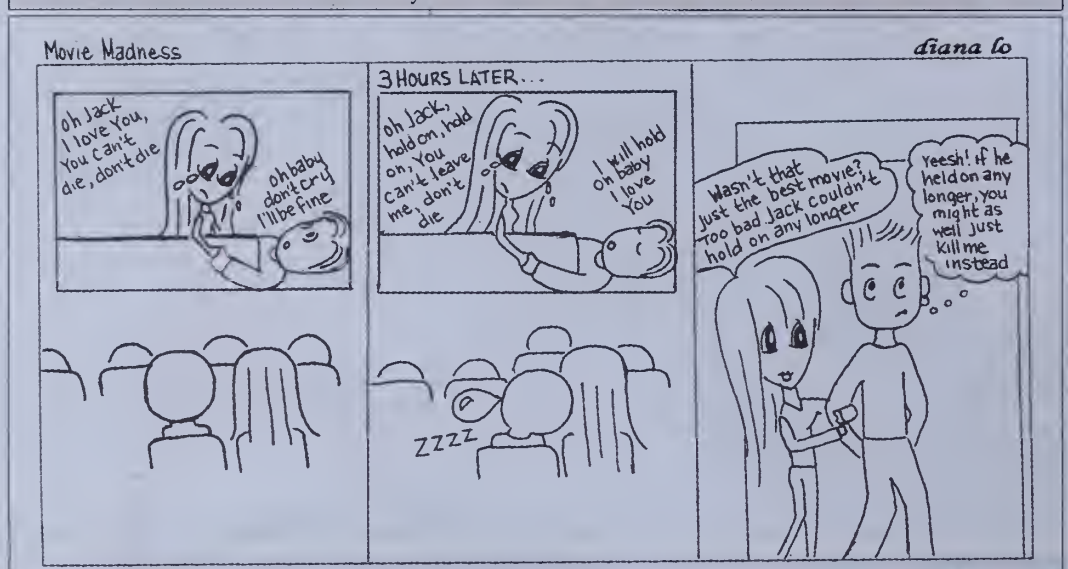
Traditionally, professors, faculty and librarians are forced to retire from their position for the upcoming year if their 65th birthday lands on or after July 1st. The agreement would still allow for both early and phased retirements, and will also include the creation of senior/retiree scholar centers on campus that will allow retired faculty and librarians to continue to pursue their work and keep up their ties with the university.

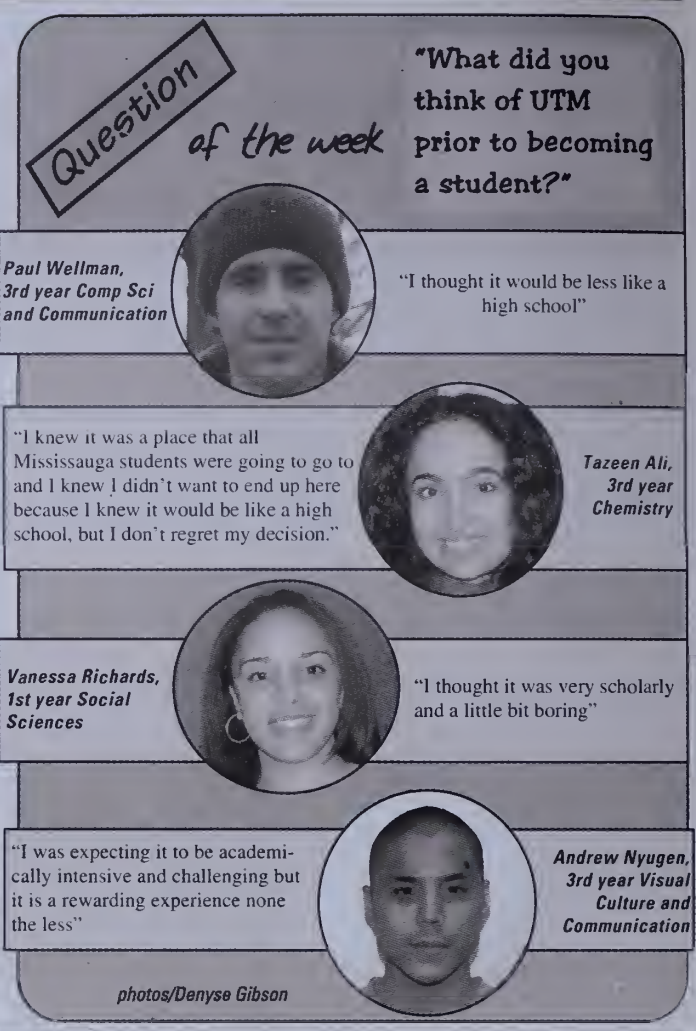
The motion would also give retirees more options and flexibility in terms of their retirement arrangements, and also includes transitional arrangements for those already set to retire this year.

Other options under the new plan include eliminating the existing Voluntary Early Academic Retirement Program by the end of this year, allowing those who are retiring to set their own date from now until 2010, changes to the pension plan, a phased retirement program which would allow retirees to scale down their workload over a period of three years in preparation for retirement while still acquiring a pension, and continued involvement in the pension plan for those who choose to remain in their positions past the age of 65.

The proceedings have received much gratification from faculty and librarians, many of whom face retirement within the next few years due to the province's aging baby boomer population.

"The ending of mandatory retirement, the introduction of new retirement options and the establishment of Senior Scholar/Retiree Centers will reinforce the University of Toronto's leadership in teaching and research and will ensure that its retired faculty and librarians have opportunities to continue to contribute to its success," said Professor Angela Hildyard, the university's vice-president, human resources and equity. "For many years, a memorandum of agreement between the university and the faculty association has provided for mandatory retirement at age 65. This provision was jointly negotiated and was seen as mutually beneficial but now, as a result of societal and institutional change, the parties have agreed that it should be discontinued."


Movie Madness
diana lo
Oh Jack I love you, You can't die, don't die
Oh baby don't cry I'll be fine
3 HOURS LATER...
Oh Jack, hold on, hold on, You can't leave me, don't die
I will hold on Baby I love You
ZZZZ
Wasn't that just the best movie? Too bad Jack couldn't hold on any longer
Yeesh! If he held on any longer, you might as well just kill me instead


Question of the week
"What did you think of UTM prior to becoming a student?"
Paul Wellman, 3rd year Comp Sci and Communication
"I thought it would be less like a high school"
"I knew it was a place that all Mississauga students were going to go to and I knew I didn't want to end up here because I knew it would be like a high school, but I don't regret my decision."
Tazeen Ali, 3rd year Chemistry
Vanessa Richards, 1st year Social Sciences
"I thought it was very scholarly and a little bit boring"
"I was expecting it to be academically intensive and challenging but it is a rewarding experience none the less"
Andrew Nyugen, 3rd year Visual Culture and Communication
photos/Denyse Gibson

Correction Notice

In last week's edition of *The Medium* (Vol. 31, Iss. 23), the electoral promise of Governing Council student-elect Husain Aboghodieh was accidentally cut off in the article entitled "ECSU CAC Aboghodieh wins GC seat for UTM with 1,280 votes". The quotation which read "I will strive to raise their issues and" should have read "I will strive to raise their issues and make sure that their voices are heard by the university."

The Medium regrets this error.

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MT levy talks continue

Continued from front

trative Council (SAC) and other student unions on campus intend to use to campaign amongst the student body to prepare them for an eventual referendum on the increased levy, which is tentatively scheduled to take place a year from now, under an ECSU referendum.

SAC Minister and Vice President-elect UTM, Walied Khogali, said that SAC had in the past been somewhat reluctant to endorse such a plan, as the general consensus was that it would be implemented too quickly without enough time to consult the students. "SAC never took a stance," Walied said, rejecting the misconception that SAC was directly opposed to the scheme. "We needed to consult the student body."

SAC would now seem to be broadly in favour of the program, having conducted their own student survey after expressing concerns that Student Centre Events' own poll was incomplete. "We found increased support for a U-Pass," Khogali explained. "Especially among residence students, on the condition that we get extended hours and more routes."

Both Khogali and Iwaniw were of the opinion that Mississauga transit would provide such improvements, and had already done much to expand access to UTM; with the extension of route 1C to include the campus in its rounds, and the new Route 24 which runs directly to Square One. Khogali praised Mississauga Transit, calling them "Not opportunistic and very socially conscious." He went on to say that "Mississauga Transit seems to be on board; they're going to increase service in the summer."

Iwaniw said that this week's meeting was the latest in a long series of discussions with Mississauga Transit about implementing a U-Pass program, which began years ago, she said, when Mississauga Transit approached them with the idea.

Difficulties may loom on the horizon, however. The number of students who take the bus to school is dwarfed by those who drive (four years ago, the figure was 20%), and there are some concerns that the increased levy, which Khogali estimates could be between $ 80 and $ 90 annually, would be unfair to students who, being car-owners, would be unlikely to use transit.

Khogali and O'Connell are aware of these concerns, but nevertheless say that the overall benefit of the U-Pass would outweigh the costs. "It's an unfortunate thing," Khogali said. "It's geared toward transit users, and that's unfortunate, but it was the only logical way we've had access to solve the parking problems." Khogali was making reference to the large parking increases which had been levied on students this year, as well as a new levy which is on the agenda for the March 29th University Affairs meeting.

O'Connell indicated that concessions could be offered to car-users to offset the extra cost to them, including the possibility of a rebate on parking fees, but declined to give concrete offers, as he felt it was still too early in the process. He did say, however, that there would be no possibility of an opt-out. "The [U-Pass] levy is not direct, like the university health plan," he explained. "You can be barred from using health services, but you can't be barred from Mississauga Transit." Also, the U-Pass program would rely on a fixed pool of funds, not individual payments by student users.

Vaccination encouraged for students in Ontario

Continued from front

C vaccine, despite age or living arrangements. Outbreaks have been seen in recent years in both Quebec and Alberta, and although Ontario has been relatively meningitis-free, precautionary vaccines are still encouraged due to a few isolated cases last year in Northern parts of the province.

"It's important for everybody, not just young people, to get this vaccine," cautioned Pat Ash, manager of health services at UTM. "It's important especially for students in residence, as there is more of an opportunity for the spread of the disease. This is becoming a regular recommended vaccine for students now, as dictated by the government. . . It was disappointed that only 223 students showed up because we sent emails out to roughly 1,000 who were in that age group. We had hoped for a better response."

This is the first year that the vaccine has been offered free to certain age groups n Ontario, and due to the allotted budgets for the vaccine and the target age for the disease, the cut-off date for free immunizations was set for those born in 1985 or higher. The vaccine is available through most doctors' office at a cost of around $100 and is not covered by Ontario health insurance. Another clinic is expected to be held around the same time next year at UTM.

Campus Advisory Alert

Between December 29, 2004 and March 15, 2005, Campus Police have investigated thirteen occurrences related to a suspicious male loitering near campus residences. Six of these reports were of suspicious footprints in the snow behind townhouse units and Roy Ivor Hall. In the other seven cases, a male was observed loitering outside residences at night and peering inside through rear and bedroom windows.

The Peel Regional Police and the UTM Campus Police are actively investigating these incidents. Several residents have come forward with information on the suspect. Campus Police have chased the suspect in three occasions. In one occasion, the suspect was chased by a resident. The suspect normally loiters near residences between 8:30 p.m. and 1:00 a.m.

If you see anyone who appears suspicious or who you find loitering in the residence area, please contact Campus Police immediately at 905.828.5200. Students are urged to use Walksafer services

The suspect is described as male, caucasian, with an olive complexion, is between thirty and forty years old with dark, short hair and is balding at the back. He is usually clean shaven, and is between 6' to 6'2" in height, weighs about 200 lbs. On March 15th, he was wearing a dark or black jacket and blue jeans and is noticed to be neat in appearance. He drives a dark colored, maroon or black late model Jeep Cherokee.

Events events@mediumonline.ca

Astronomy Lecture

When: Thursday, March 24th, at 7 p.m., Lash Miller Chemical Laboratories, Room 159.
Topics include "The Ecological Convergence of Science and Religion; Towards a New Wisdom Tradition?" Ann Zimmerman will be speaking on the topic "Ecology's old tradition as a Science", and Steven Scharper will be speaking on the topic Cosmology and Ecology.

4th Annual U of T Film Festival

Date: Tuesday, March 22 Time: 7:00 p.m.
Location: Hart House Theatre.
The 4th annual University of Toronto Film Festival is a veritable feast of film and video at U of T, showcasing work by alumni & students, faculty & staff.
For more information, visit http://www.harthouse.utoronto.ca/English/page-3-9787-1.html

David Trott Memorial

The UTM and Uof T community has lost a dear friend and valued colleague, David Trott. It is a terrible loss. David lived a life so rich, full, creative, and generous. David made a difference in so many lives. All that he has done to make UTM a leader, his drive to innovate and to perfect, his example as we build all that we, together with David, began, cannot be taken from our memories.

Please join David's family, friends and colleagues at a celebration of David's life and his contributions to all of us at UTM on April 2, 2005 at 11:00 a.m. in the Matthews Auditorium, Kaneff Centre, Room 137, University of Toronto at Mississauga. A reception will follow.

Please RSVP to Elizabeth Vanatoru at 905.828.3747

Thank you and we hope to see you on April 2nd.

Michael Lettieri, Chair
Michel Lord, Acting Chair

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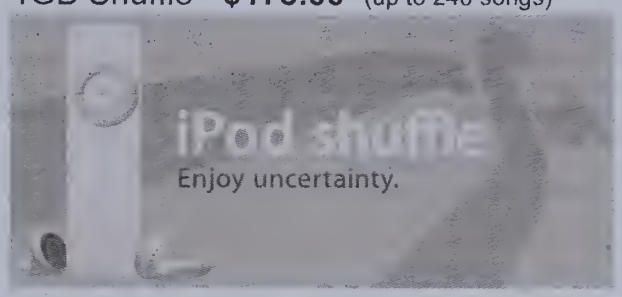

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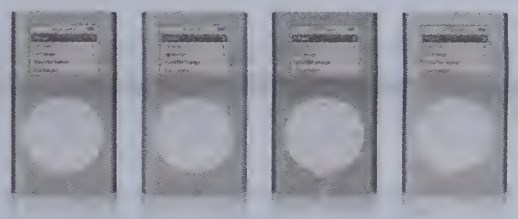

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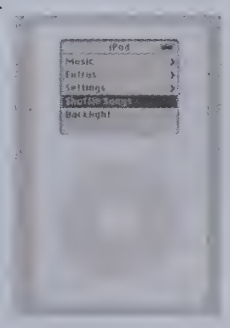

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Editorial

THE MEDIUM

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Visions of Democracy

There are two candidates running for ECSU president this year. The first is Amer Meknas. The second is Ryan Carroll. Amer Meknas is a Muslim man. Ryan Carroll is a white, American man. It is this differentiation and its implications for UTM politics which I seek to analyze. I realize it is not a perfect differentiation. I realize that Islam is a religion, white is a skin colour, and America is a country. I realize that the three are at once comparable and not so. I realize that one person may embody none, some, or all of these traits.

I've said it before and I'll say it now, UTM is a microcosm of the greater world in which we live. The media presents us with a constant stream of text and image that illustrate the ongoing clash between the Arab world and the Western world. CNN, CBC, BBC, and Al Jazeera all paint slightly different pictures using the same colour paints. Various catchphrases - occupation, infidels, democracy, oil, terror, Bush, Al Qaeda - are presented to make digestible one wholly complicated and uncomfortable fact: conflict exists between the Western and Arab worlds. And here we have the same at UTM. If the West's repeated collisions with the Arab world are a global manifestation of this conflict, then surely Meknas vs. Carroll is a local manifestation; albeit a tame, nonviolent one.

EDITORIAL

Let's put issues of race and faith aside for a moment. Pretend that Meknas and Carroll are completely devoid of racial or religious affiliation. Pretend they are both identically generic. Now read the statements by Meknas and Carroll on page seven. Based on their statements alone, who will you vote for?

Meknas? He certainly has experience in UTM politics, being the current president of the largest student organization on campus. But he totally contradicts himself in his statement, however, and slides quickly down the credibility scale as a result. "I do not want to repeat the same old promises…I come to you with a new promise, a promise I like to call OneUTM: Uniting both Student Unions, SAC and ECSU." If ever there is an old, repetitive promise from would-be politicians at UTM, it is the promise of creating a magical unity between SAC and ECSU. OneUTM has a nice ring to it, but the sad fact is ECSU and SAC will never play in tune.

Carroll? Based on his statement, it seems Carroll has no experience whatsoever with UTM politics. He does work at the pub, and the pub is owned by ECSU, so perhaps he can put that on his resume under 'political involvement.' Sarcasm aside, having a political rookie as president might lend some fresh outlook to an otherwise tried and tired council.

Let's turn back to faith and race. We should not turn to race or faith in democracy. Ideally, these notions should never enter our minds when considering who we will elect to represent us. But reality is not ideal. Look a little closer at the photograph of each candidate. Who will you vote for? You will probably vote for the candidate you relate to the most. By this logic, if you are Muslim you will vote for Meknas and if you are white you will vote for Carroll. Before you cry foul, consider this: if you are Muslim, will you truly and honestly vote for Carroll based on his statement? If you are white, will you truly and honestly vote for Meknas based on his statement? The question is not easy to answer. With the two statements as equally uninspiring as they are, the voter's attention is focused on the photograph. There may be more than meets the eye, but few are willing to look for it.

Perhaps the most unbiased voters will be students who are neither Muslim nor white. These voters, like all voters, will vote for the candidate they have most in common with. For Carroll, this is definitely a disadvantage. Look at his picture and what do you see? A white man with a shaved head. What is the first term that comes to mind? Skinhead. What is the truth of the matter? He shaved his head to raise money for cancer research. That is a noble act, not the work of a skinhead. But you'd never know that if I hadn't told you, and being a nonwhite student of UTM, you'd probably vote for Meknas. Sadly, Carroll's nobility may prove his downfall when careless voters judge him by nothing more than a passing glance.

There is heavy Muslim involvement within UTM politics. For every political acronym on campus, SAC, ECSU, EPUS, UTMAC, there are Muslim students involved with the respective council. SAC especially is dominated by Islamic students. And why is that so? The reason, as best I can tell, is that Muslim students tend to give a damn about their university experience moreso than anyone else. Of course I'm generalizing, but the trend is visible if you look for it. I don't share many beliefs with Muslims, but for their passion, solidarity, and active involvement in this campus I have nothing but the utmost respect.

I believe firmly that Meknas will win the ECSU presidency. Not because of qualifications or campaigning, but because he is backed by the most organized and involved group of students on our campus. You may love this fact or loathe it, but unless you vote on March 30 and 31, you cannot dispute it.

Till next time...

Adrian Barek

THE MEDIUM is published weekly by Medium II Publications; a non-profit, incorporated student organization. The opinions expressed within are those of the writers and editors and do not necessarily reflect those of Medium II Publications. THE MEDIUM's mandate includes informing students of local and national concerns, and giving Erindale College students an opportunity to practice journalism.

Residence Director refutes notion of 'gestapo babysitting service'

re: "If you look to your left..." *(Vol. 31, Iss. 23)*

Dear Editor,

In response to last week's editorial, I'd like to take the opportunity to respond to your claim that the UTM Residence runs a "gestapo babysitting service."

The UTM Residence community has been changing rapidly over the past three years. From a time when the Editor and many of his cohort last lived on campus, our residence facilities and residence life program have undergone tremendous change - none of which I would consider 'gesatpo-esque'. Here is a snapshot of what we've accomplished in the past three years:

- We have opened another new residence (Erindale Hall) and completed plans to open another 424 beds in 2007 (Phase 8). We've also begun an interior redesign of our townhouses - a renovation plan that will be complete in 2006.

- We have more than doubled the number of leadership and employment opportunities available to students. We have more that doubled our number of dons ("puppets" as you have called them) not because we needed more "babysitters", but because in the old system, upper year students had no peer support. Our investigation three years ago showed that upper year students (perhaps not the Editor and his immediate circle) wanted to get more involved and wanted more academic and personal support.

- We have more than tripled the number of opportunities for students to get involved in campus life such as amplifying the Arts Festival or sending 25 students to Guatemala to perform community service.

- We have collaborated with many departments on campus to improve service to students. We have 20 upper year students who are academic mentors to other students and help provide immediate academic support to students who are struggling with various academic concerns. We've also hired a personal counselor in the residence itself to respond to student's needs for more support for personal issues.

Finally, we have introduced numerous programs and initiatives to promote inclusion and equity on campus. Our residences are one of the few places on campus you'll see Positive Space posters. We've launched the *Be the Change* program series. We've recently launched the "Unity" poster series and are also the ONLY residence at the U of T and one of three residences in Canada to offer accessible housing for transgendered students.

Frankly, equating our residence with the Nazi regime's Secret Service (Gestapo) is blatantly offensive and disrespectful. It is a slap in the face to all of the Residence staff and students who have committed themselves to living in a community that promotes mutual respect for human rights and the diversity of the human experience.

How the Editor can equate the work of our community to such an offensive notion is beyond me. If working to construct more housing for students, renovate existing facilities, provide more employment for students, enhance student involvement and campus life and promote student academic success is something to be ashamed of, then so be it. However, equating all of these services to students to the Nazi Secret Service is something of which our Editor should be ashamed. Mr. Editor, I'll happily introduce you to some of our students whose lives have been deeply affected and drastically shaped by the Holocaust and violent acts of the Nazi Gestapo. I think you have a lot to learn from them.

Chris McGrath
Director of Residence

Residence student supports notion of "gestapo babysitting service"

re: "If you look to your left..." *(Vol. 31, Iss. 23)*

I would like to respond to Adrian Barek's editorial in last week's issue of *The Medium*. The "Gestapo babysitting service" crack was accurate, but the target shouldn't be the dons: it is the administration. UTM has always been considered a commuter school, but with the growing student resident population, however, especially in the last five years or so, it is time that it grew it out of this mentality. The current driving force behind this movement is the "community" concept being peddled by residence administration. Community is the wrong term. A more suitable term may be "day care" as Adrian alluded to. A community doesn't shut down after 4 p.m.

As residence life increases in numbers so must the Don team. I mean no disrespect to any of the Dons, I think they work hard and put up with a lot for our benefit. My problem is with what they are expected to do. Making Dons run programs does nothing to create a UTM community. Really the Don's job is to provide information to students as needed and to administer house checks. House checks are a nuisance, but I understand the need for them. There is more involved in their job, of course, but basically that is it. I see no reason why their job has had to change so much with an increased resident population. I could not care less about row meetings and programming. I am here to study and enjoy myself. I don't need someone planning my fun for me. Special programming is great, but that's what clubs and school societies are for. Why are Dons being forced to do this stuff? I guess the life at this school is so pathetic that someone has to do it. A forced sense of community is not the answer.

I suppose another reason why there needs to be so much needless programming is the fact that the policies here keep us from having any other kind of fun. The rules governing parties are so rigid that it is impossible to throw a good one. I haven't been to a campus party of any interest since second year, and even then we had administration breathing down our necks. This, coupled with the fact that Roy Ivor Hall and Erindale Hall are designed like prisons, make the whole communal concept hard to swallow. Don't get me wrong, the apartments are really nice when they are not without power or falling apart due to rushed and cheap patchwork construction.

Finally, I have a serious problem with the betrayal of the UTM community idea from the administration. In January, roughly 25 residence students received notice that they were short in their credit requirements to remain eligible for residence. In my case, I was under the impression that I was eligible for residence under the old system wherein fulltime student status was sufficient. Apparently the definition of fulltime status had changed, although the registrar's office was not aware of this change. Good to know. I was lucky in my situation because the school allowed me to stay on campus. Another example was a student who hadn't made any changes to credits, but apparently all of a sudden was not eligible even though they had been at the start of the year. Residence had some nerve making this person pick up another credit when it was they who made the mistake in the first place by not notifying.

My largest concern is that many students, likely freshmen, did not know that they do not have to swallow this tripe and did not fight it. This administrative arrogance feels more like a bullying dictatorship than a community. What was it you said Adrian? "Gestapo" pretty much sums it up. Would it have made any difference anyway? We had paid in full by then and the rooms would not have been filled with only a few months left of school, so why make an issue of it? As always, the all mighty dollar motivates this school. By forcing us to take more credits the school generates more revenue.

Another little fun fact that has always bothered me is why is it really necessary for students to vacate campus during the holidays? I understand that maintenance needs to be done on the buildings, but apartment complexes everywhere else in the city manage to accomplish this without kicking out their tenants for two weeks. Maybe I do not want, or cannot go home for two weeks. Regardless of circumstance it should not matter; I've paid to live here for the school year so I should be able to do so. I realize that this is not an issue isolated to just this university, but if the administration is so eager to "be the change" then maybe they could start with something useful. There's no place like home.

Justin Stoller

Letters Policy

Letters to the editor will be edited for spelling, grammar, style, and coherence. Letters will not exceed 800 words in print.

Letters that incite hatred, violence or letters that are racist, homophobic, sexist, or libelous will not be published. Anonymous letters will not be published.

Letters reflect opinions of the writers, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the editors, staff, volunteers, or board of directors of *The Medium*. In other words, just because we print it doesn't necessarily mean we agree with it.

Submission does not guarantee publication. Submission of a letter to *The Medium* presumes the writer has read and agrees with this policy. Please submit letters via e-mail to editor@mediumonline.ca.

OPINION

VIBE sets the record straight regarding Pathak

re: "VIBE Promotions Director Pathak reinstated" *(Vol. 31, Iss. 23)*

I am writing on behalf of the VIBE Radio Board of Directors to clear up some of the inaccuracies appearing in the article written about Promotions Director Sunny Pathak in last week's issue. I sat as the Chairperson on the meetings of the VIBE Board of Directors who reviewed the issues that arose between Sunny Pathak and the management at VIBE Radio.

First of all, I would like to start by commending *The Medium* for pointing out that this was a longstanding issue, and that this was not the first issue to arise between Sunny Pathak and the management at VIBE Radio. However, the article stated that The Board gave "Ananda Korchynski penultimate power to suspend any member of the station she saw fit to her discretion". This is not the case. In November 2004, after detailed consideration concerning a variety of issues concerning Sunny Pathak, the board voted unanimously to give management the power to suspend this particular employee until a VIBE Board of Director's meeting could be held. At the subsequent Board of Directors meeting the length of the suspension would be determined as well as any conditions pertaining to it.

Secondly, the board did NOT agree that there was "little merit in the suspension." The board fully and unanimously supported management's actions and handed down both a one month suspension without pay, along with a set of restrictive conditions which would apply to Sunny Pathak once he returned from suspension. The Board would like to stress that the actions of Sunny Pathak were not dismissed as having little merit, and the completion of his suspension should in no way be interpreted as a vindication of the employee in question as is implied in your article.

Finally, and most importantly, no serious attempt was made by anyone from The Medium to contact the Board in order to allow a response to be made. Failure to provide an opportunity for the Board to respond to opinions about decisions made by the Board and its reasons for these decisions would hardly seem to be professional.

Seeing as the previous articles regarding Sunny Pathak's suspension were printed on the front page of your newspaper, I would expect that this letter would also appear on the front page.

Signed,

Josh Kyrzakos,
VIBE Board

Editor's Note: *Regardless of content or importance, letters to the editor never appear on the front page.* - AB

Clear up confusion about covering up

Since the first time I put on a scarf I have been subject to various reactions from people around me. From tentative glances and curious stares to bold questions and harsh criticism, I have been though it all. Each time I wish I could sit down with the person and explain. Explain that yes, covering my head is my choice, no, my parents did not force me into it, no, I do not feel oppressed and most important of all, yes, I am happy. Perhaps that is the most difficult to explain. The fact that I am happy wearing a scarf.

The other day while I was retying my scarf in the south building washroom, a girl beside me turned to me and said, "You know you don't have to wear that. I know several Muslim girls who don't." That is a misconception I'd like to clear. We HAVE to wear a scarf. Every Muslim girl who is in a sane state of mind, and has reached maturity, has to wear a scarf. Not wearing one is like saying I have cleaned the room but I didn't pick up everything. Without picking up everything the room is not clean. Similarly without wearing a scarf our religion is not complete. Our prophet, Prophet Muhammad (SAW), was quoted at several occasion talking about women covering and the seriousness of it. One such quote is

"Any woman who takes off her clothes [a Muslim girl's hands and face are all she can show] in other than her husband's house (to show off for unlawful purposes), has broken Allah's shield upon her."

"Oh my god, you poor thing. Your religion is so cruel!" No, it's not. If I believe firmly enough in my religion to cover, then I also firmly believe that by doing so I'm one step closer to heaven. That usually gets a surprised look of "Oh yeah?" Yeah. Not in one place, but in several places in the Qur'an, our holy book, it says that the woman who covers is guaranteed not only personal happiness, but happiness in the way of Allah.

"...they [believing women] should lower their gaze and guard their modesty;... they should draw their veils over their bosoms and not display their beauty except to their husbands, their fathers, their husbands' fathers, their sons, their husbands' sons, their brothers, or their brothers' sons or their sisters' sons, or their women or the servants whom their right hands possess, or male servants free of physical needs, or small children who have no sense of the shame of sex...O you Believers, turn you all together towards Allah, that you may attain Bliss." (24:31).

So what's the problem? No problem. But the next question is usually, "okay...but how do YOU feel about covering?" which means, "Religion smeligion, bet you never liked covering." Wrong again. I love covering, and anyone who does will agree.

Among the different reactions I'm subject to, more often than not the reactions are good ones. Whenever I meet someone, especially boys and men, they immediately treat me with a certain amount of respect and dignity. They do not goof around or try to flirt, which is the purpose of the hijab. A close friend said, "hijab is a constant reminder of who you are and what your purpose is...we live in a fast paced world and can get caught up and loose your focus. Wearing a hijab prevents that for me." Another muhajjibah (a girl who does hijab) said "there are several people that wear hijab. When I cover it gives me a sense of unity and belonging." The reasons go on to include "[wearing a hijab] gives me a sense of modesty and makes me feel special and unique." The most popular quote that summarizes all these reasons is by an Iranian school girl, who said "We want to stop men from treating us like sex objects, as they have always done. We want them to ignore our appearance and to be attentive to our personalities and mind. We want them to take us seriously and treat us as equals and not just chase us around for our bodies and physical looks."

How can someone mistake us as females oppressed when we are making a profound statement about our religion and individuality. This is neither the first nor the last time a Muslim girl covering her head will be questioned for covering. However looking at textbooks, children storybooks, and the society that we move in today shows how slowly but steadily we are beginning to embrace and understand. It is impressive how widely accepted that concept of hijab has become, and surely there will come a day when people will figure out the wearing a hijab is simply like wearing jeans.

Erum Baig

A Player's Poker Rhetoric

In Spiegel Hall these days it is not uncommon to see a game or two of poker being played. What's more common are the laptops fired up to the poker dot com of the day, most likely playing for fake money, the odd time for real. Because finding a game is now much easier, I am glad that poker has gained in popularity, thanks in part to ESPN and no hockey to fill the hours of programming time. The problem lies is this...I am now embarrassed to play or talk about one of my favorite games in fear of being labeled a rider of trends or a wannabe rounder. In case you aren't familiar, a rounder is someone who makes their living off the game. I listen to these people talking about the game like they've mastered it. "It's so easy this game!" one was heard to proclaim.

Let me clear the air. While I don't know you all personally, I can say with almost absolute certainty that a mastery of this game is not in your future. There is very little luck involved here. It takes more than watching the TV, reading the books, and playing on Fridays with your buddies. It is no surprise that most of the men and women you see on TV are pros - they eat, sleep, breath and die poker each and every day of their lives - or are professionals who possess tremendous intellect and instinct.

That being said, poker is a fabulous game. It can even help you in life. The ability to see beyond an adversary's words and look into his eyes to uncover the truth is valuable. So valuable in fact very few can do it. So for those of you who do not understand the game, do not dismiss it so quickly. To those of you who are enthralled in the game, be it long term or new to the game, all I ask is that you respect it. Have fun. Be polite. Respect the rules and your opponents and remember one very important thing. Beating your friends is no big deal. When is comes to the overwhelming majority of us, poker is like golf.....

WE ALL SUCK

For those of you who insist on betting your tuition on your inside straight draw, I will paraphrase from a well known poker cult classic....if you can't spot the sucker, you are the sucker. Remember that.

Joshua Lougheed-Laycock

The CCIT Program and The CCIT Club Present

The First Annual

CCIT Gala

Limited Seating!

INFORMATION	INTERESTED?
April 12, 2005	Formal Attire - Cash Bar
@ Roma's Place	$50 for students
Banquet & Convention Hall	$55 for non-students
5960 Shawson Dr., Mississauga	For Additional Information
From 6:00PM - 1:00AM	email: ccit_gala@hotmail.com
Dinner Served @ 7:30PM	Or Visit: www.ccitclub.com

Tickets sold in CCIT Building
Students: CC-3013 Mon & Wed: 10-4
Faculty: CC-3022

THE MEDIUM

CALL FOR 2005/06 EDITORIAL BOARD APPLICATIONS

Editorial Positions available for 2005/06:

-Editor-in-Chief
-News Editor
-Features Editor
-Sports Editor
-Arts & Entertainment Editor
-Composite Editor
-Photography Editor

Deadline for applications is March 24th, 2005 @ 6 p.m.

Candidate Speeches and Group Interviews will take place during the week of March 28th. Times and dates TBA

Application Forms are available from The Medium office. We are located in Room 200 of the Student Centre just above the ECSU office.

For more information please email the Editor-in-Chief at editor@mediumonline.ca

Opinion

Salvation? Not for me thank you

re: "Comment on Christianity" *(Vol. 31, Iss. 23)*

Usually when people like Jim Delinis start ranting and raving it is best to just roll you eyes and shake your head. But in this case that is impossible: my eyes don't roll that far back and my head would have to spin around a la The Exorcist. But there are a few things I would like to speak to.

Mr. Delinis says that increased immigration to Europe is "a suicidal action." Why? Is it because immigrants bring their own beliefs and ideals with them? Well I got news for you: if immigrants have not been doing that throughout all of human history we'd still be squatting in a ditch putting berries up our noses. Western Society was started by immigrants (the Romans) colonizing Europe.

I have not been "all over Europe" so I cannot speak to the statement that "prostitutes as young as twelve roam the streets." However I suspect that the author is exactly the sort of person who would know where to get prostitutes and how old they are.

I do like how Mr. Delinis says that he hopes "Christians will be able to save Western Civilization from the abyss it is now headed to." But don't you think that Christianity has a rather poor track record in that sort of thing? I mean the Inquisition and the Salem Witch trials were not exactly great P.R. moves. And the Crusades? Well, they did kill a lot of people, both Christian and 'infidel' alike; but they also succeeded in pretty much turning an entire civilization against the West, which is a problem that we are dealing with right now.

I think I will end this on a positive note: the number of people attending Church is shrinking every year. I do not see this as a sign of moral decay. Rather I think that it means that, after thousands of years, people are beginning to realize that living in a dogmatic society where the ideal and beliefs we are told to believe in are so often the first ones that are trampled by the ones in charge. "Love thy neighbour" (Jesus Christ?). Rrrrrrright - as long as he's not a fag.

You say you want to save Western Civilization. No thanks, I think I'll take my chances because the cure is worse than the disease. Nobody expects the Inquisition but that's often what we get when people listen to an idiot like you.

Sohrab Merchant

Send responses, letters, and opinions to... editor@mediumonline.ca

Suck it up commuters

I am writing in response to the views consistently expressed by UTM students regarding parking. I am a mature, full time student back at UTM after ten years in the private sector. I have never once in two years had a problem finding parking on campus, probably because I know if I arrive after 10 a.m., lot three (near the north building) will be full. I drive to the back of lot eight and haul my behind up the stairs and down the five minute walk to my class. I too pay the exorbitant amount for parking with displeasure but I do not hold the false belief I deserve a parking spot convenient for my schedule. Nobody has a right to convenience. I am sick of reading about lack of parking. These immature views many students hold have grown tiresome. Try finding parking in the private sector when you attempt to get to work with only five minutes to spare. Be responsible, leave early, walk the extra distance and quit bellyaching about parking shortages. You might find your health benefits from it, even if your temper doesn't.

Karyn Edwards

Art pushes boundaries just like science does

re: "'WTF?' headline gives UTM student 'a warm feeling inside'" *(Vol. 31, Iss. 23)*

I would like to thank *The Medium* for having the guts to spark a debate to wake up the general population at UTM, but I do feel however, that publishing generalizations may be detrimental when trying to discuss art. I am an art student writing in response to Paul Dick's view on the new work outside South Building described by the 'WTF?' headline.

It is interesting to note that art, like science, has a history that still continues to push boundaries even today. It is only after debate and a series of tests that science has developed its laws and principles which are used to explain things in a clear, concise way.

I do not feel that moving the work from the South Building location to the North Building would make people 'appreciate' the work more, nor do I feel that there is a problem when art work deliberately usurps the language of advertising, but doesn't try to sell anything. Good modern art raises questions and does not give easy answers. After all, you wouldn't tell a philosophy student to stop pondering hard questions and debating subjective arguments in a black stance or white stance because grey improves 'winter aesthetics.'

Monika Raciborski

Poker article a pleasure

As an avid sports fan, the sports section is often near the top of my priority list when I pick up any newspaper. Unfortunately, *The Medium's* sports section is one that I often avoid due to the absence of anything even remotely interesting. The writing is often dry and absent of any character. That's why I found it so refreshing to read John Hartery's article on poker.

John's witty remarks and ability to relate poker to life at UTM made it a pleasure to read. Having never played or even been remotely interested in poker in my life, John Hartery's article managed to pique my interest. I even watched some poker on television later that night.

Congratulations on finally producing something of interest in the sport section. I look forward to reading more by John Hartery in the future.

Andrew Lockhart

ECSU Candidates

Below and on the following page you will see the candidates in the upcoming ECSU election. Read over their statements and decide who best represents you. On March 30th and 31st, cast your vote at polling stations in the North and South Buildings.

University of Toronto
Environmental Resource Network

UTERN ELECTIONS

Represent UTM!

Positions Available:

Executive Liaison
Treasurer
Public Relations Officer
Projects Manager
Advertizing Coordinator
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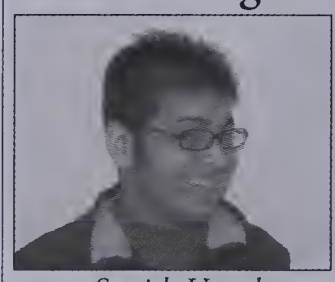
Volunteer Coordinator
Environment Week Coordinator
Webmaster

For more information and nomination forms:
utern-admin@utoronto.ca
http://utern.sa.utoronto.ca

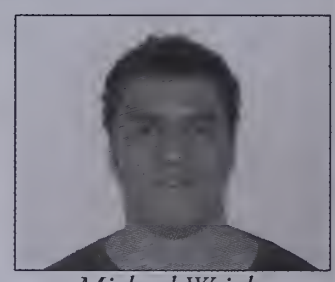
ECSU College Affairs Commissioner



Sunish Uppal

What's Up Erindale? My name is Sunish Uppal and I am running for ECSU College Affairs Commissioner. The experiences I have had in the past that pertain to my position as College Affairs Commissioner are: being a Community Representative for Residence Council in which I organized several events for the students living at the UTM residence. I am also the ECSU events promoter in which I endorse ECSU events through public relations by providing the student body with information on events. As a member of the Living Arts LLC I also sit on the Finance Committee creating and implementing financial initiatives geared towards the Arts festival.

As the ECSU College Affairs Commissioner I plan to make certain amendments to the Constitution. I also plan to work on the U-pass referendum and promote more academic advocacy by setting up unions. I will also construct a committee to illicit positive change within the UTM Community where the students are encouraged to voice their opinion and work towards productive solutions of change. Vote for me to have your voice heard.



Michael Wright

It's a pleasure to announce my candidacy to be your next College Affairs Commissioner. Since October, I have been one of your Student Governors on the Erindale College Council. I want to continue to work for you along with all of your other elected representatives. Fees are increasing and next year, the student tuition freeze is going to end. As a first year student, I will be here to meet these challenges with you, and there is time to make change-as long as the job is started now. Take the recent decision to increase parking fees. I opposed that decision at the ECC level, along with all of your other student representatives. Unfortunately, the Administration easily succeeded in winning that battle. They have the votes, they do their homework and they have too much influence over setting and controlling the Agenda. Together, we can change this. The Administration will have to take the student voice more seriously if it is measured, considered, and focused on addressing the multiple layers of each political issue. Rather than always reacting, we must anticipate and prepare. The office of College Affairs is about communication and I believe we can say our piece with a lot more impact. For a savvy student voice, make the WRIGHT choice. March 30th and 31st vote for Michael Wright.

GRADUATING IN JUNE 2005? Sign up now for the Recent Graduates Employment Service. RGES is an add-on to your existing Career Centre Online account, that will give you access to hundreds of full-time opportunities advertised to new UofT graduates. Get started by attending a session on March 21, 23, 29 or 31.

COMMERCE COUNTDOWN: Are you a 2nd or 3rd Year Commerce Student? Learn how to get a head start on the competition for the best jobs in Finance, Accounting and more in 2006! Date: April 6. Sign up online.

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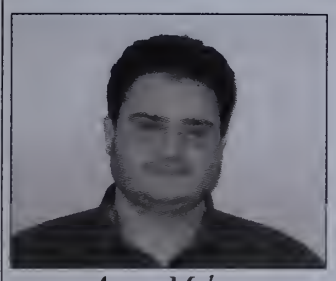
CAREER CENTRE @ UTM www.utm.utoronto.ca/careers

ECSU ELECTIONS

President



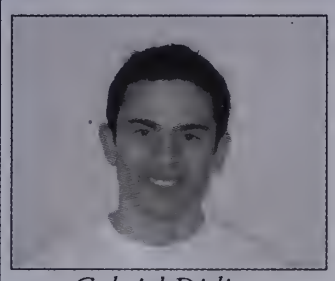
Amer Meknas

My name is Amer Meknas and I want to be your next ECSU president. As an executive on the Muslim Students' Association, the largest student organization on campus, I served in the positions of Internal Relations Officer, Vice President and currently as the President. I have gained experience in the areas of leadership, management and student government. I feel that it is time for me to utilize this knowledge in serving the whole of the student body at UTM. I am currently one of the ECSU's representatives on the UTM Food Committee - an advisory body to the food service provider on campus. I assisted in translating many students' suggestions into concrete actions, involving ways to deal with line-ups, food variety, and prices. I enjoy a constructive working relationship with the current and future executives of SAC and the current ECSU executives. As a candidate for ECSU president, I do not want to repeat the same old _promises of increasing bus routes, student space, and food varieties on campus. Much work still needs to be done on these issues and I am fully committed to them. However, I come to you with a new promise, a promise I like to call OneUTM: Uniting both Student Unions, SAC and ECSU, in their stances and events to ensure that students' money is not wasted in disagreements and redundancies. I promise to establish a strong communication link between the students and their elected representatives. Vote Amer Meknas for President, vote for a better UTM.

Ryan Carroll

As a third year student at UTM, I have witnessed many of the trials, tribulations, and accomplishments of ECSU. Through all successes and failures, ECSU has one immutable fact that they can take pride in. They have always been concerned with students' best interests above anything else. The foundation of caring for student welfare is the strength behind ECSU and something I will clearly uphold if elected. My name is Ryan Carroll and I am running for President. I am not going to run a campaign where I promise things that I can't guarantee. One thing I can guarantee however is that I will work tirelessly to protect the interests of all students and student groups at Erindale. I plan to work on improving the Mississauga Transit bus routes by trying to increase their schedules to accommodate students who stay late on campus. Another project if elected, is to create a strong, unified council. I understand the vital operations of the pub and will work closely with the pub to make sure that students are receiving the satisfaction they deserve from the pub. I have worked full-time at the pub as well as carry a full course load which is a tribute to my time management skills. The lifeline that allows ECSU to have continued success is their ability to organize under strong leadership to get the job done. Don't Gamble With UTM's Future. Vote Ryan Carroll for President and assure yourself a president that will work for you!

Vice President of Finance



Gabriel Didiano

My name is Gabriel Didiano, I am a second year Economics major and I am running for VP Finance. I am the right man for the job. I have represented students as a voting member on the Erindale College Council for two years where I fought to decrease incidental and parking fees. Along with the ECC I have been an executive member on the Italian club for two consecutive terms. I am responsible for the advertisement, sponsorship and running of club events.

I have two goals that I will achieve. My first goal is to bring transparency and accountability so that every dollar of OUR money is spent appropriately. If I am elected I will make certain accountability by decreasing pub losses. YOUR money will be spent less for the pub and more on students. I will then increase club funding to make more of your money placed towards student events. I will create transparency in ECSU by publicizing the financial statements and budgets.

My final goal and promise to you is that I will better the Blind Duck Pub, a service for students. As your representative that controls pub finances, I have already promised to lower losses at the pub. I will also bring diversity to the menu introducing items that are religious and vegetarian friendly. I will then approach local micro breweries to get a better price for students.

These are my goals and promises to you. Vote Gabriel Didiano, cutting costs and protecting your money!

Shawn Naseem Abrahim

If elected ECSU VP finance this year, my aim is to have the spending priorities of this council to become more reflective of how us, the students want it to be spent. We deserve to know how our $34.25 levy is spent. I pledge to work hard at promoting the financial success of this organization while making it both accountable and transparent. When VP finance, I will advance more student involvement in ECSU by advocating for increased services and also by encouraging more active club funding and participation on campus. Another main objective of mine is to make the financial on goings of ECSU more transparent. Each and every full-time student at this campus should have readily available, equal access to detailed financial statements of ECSU.

As a 3rd year Commerce student at UTM, I have diverse and strong experience with multiple organizations. I sat on the Erindale College Council for two years, and was a member of the Academic Affairs board as well. The year prior I was appointed Student Representative on the VIBE radio Board of Directors. This past fall I won the election to represent UTM on the tri-campus SAC Board of Directors. I was also the Co-minister of the Ministry of Student Life at SAC, where I organized events sucb as Procrastination days, Income Tax clinics, Unity through Diversity events, and Spirit Week. Contact me for any further information/comments at sabrahim@utm.utoronto.ca. I have the experience, the responsibility and the drive, vote for me as VP- Finance.

Special Projects Director

Michelle Gabourie

Hello UTM! My name is Michelle Gabourie, I am a 2nd year student in CCIT and I am hoping to be your ECSU Special Project Director. ECSU hosts social events throughout the academic year and if you're not attending and enjoying them ECSU is not working for you. I can guarantee that if I am elected, your next year at UTM will be filled with the type of events that are not only successful but that you actually want to attend. "ECSU is here to make your years at UTM as enjoyable and memorable as possible" and if elected as Special Projects Director, I will make sure this is true. If you are not happy with the social atmosphere on campus (Pub Nights, Activities and special events, etc.) I will make it my goal to make your university social life more exciting. I have planned events throughout my high-school days and I was also hired by my city to plan parties and events. I have the experience, I have the drive, I have the capability. I know what it is like to be disappointed with UTM's social atmosphere and I will make sure that your next year will not be a disappointing one. For a better social year at UTM vote Michelle Gabourie for Special Projects Director.

Rabaab Namazie

UTM is an amazing school. I've only been here for a year, but that's long enough for me to know I'm going to love these few years ahead. Looking at this campus in comparison to bigger universities, there are many things that I feel we, as Erindale College students have to be grateful for. For one, the people enrolled at this campus are incredible. Coming to university, I thought it would be a difficult transition, but now I realize that my douhts were futile. I've never felt so welcome before, not only by other first years, but by all the years above me too. However, as a commuting student, it's a little harder to get the full "university experience". As your Special Projects Director, I want to make it possible for each and every student, whether living on or off campus, to achieve that experience the same way the students at bigger universities might. Studying is a big part of the undergraduate life, but partying should be a big part of it too. Events such as 'meet your prof night' are great to get your academic life on the right track, hut we need bigger and better pub nights, culture days, talent shows and possibly even an event such as 'Rent-a-Slave'. I won't promise what I will specifically organize, hut I will promise to try and make this university feel, in every aspect, more like a university, so vote Rahaah Namazie for your Special Projects Director.

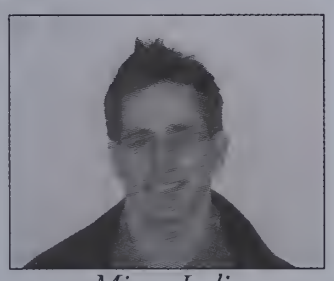
Vice President of Administration

Hena Awan

Hi, I'm Hena Awan, a 3rd year Economics and Political Science student and your current ECSU Special Projects Director. Over the past few months, I've given my mind, body and soul over the work that is involved with ECSU. I'm dedicated, creative, organised and most importantly hard working. ECSU has given me a opportunity to meet new people and learn something that can't be taught within lecture halls. I'm now looking to expand my horizons on the ECSU Council, as VP Administration. Presently I've been taking over part of the responsihilities of the VP Admin at ECSU since his departure to a land far, far away. As VP Admin, it would he my joh to keep things organised and running smoothly and to make sure all the lazy hums who get voted in around me on this page are doing their job at ECSU. I'm friendly and outgoing, but if I have to crack the whip I will. I've been there for the numerous board meetings and the endless hours of work and I want to come back for even more. I know what it takes to make this position and this council work and I know what's involved within the four walls of ECSU. Lastly I'm devoted and willing to make next year memorahle for everyone, if you UTM folk give me that chance.

VOTE HENA AWAN, VP Administration ECSU 2005-2006 on March 30th/31st, 9:00 - 4:00 pm, North/South Building.

Good luck to all you candidates.



Miron Lulic

As current VP of the CCIT Club, I worked alongside the executive team to coordinate many proactive events on campus including: "Project Santa Claus" - The CCIT club gave back to the community by volunteering at the Mavis homeless shelter in Mississauga. "Meet the Specialists" - A networking event where first year students had the opportunity to gain first-hand insight on the CCIT specialist programs. "CCIT Gala" - A formal evening honouring the achievements of CCIT students. As an individual member of the executive team, addressing student concems was my priority. For instance, students communicated detestation in regard to the CCIT program's website. In response, I led a student initiative to revamp the official website.

Perhaps the most rewarding of my involvements caine as a competing member of the Varsity Rowing Team. Training before the break of dawn 6 days a week taught me the values of team work and dedication. As VP of Administration, one must be prepared to work alongside a team of numerous individuals on a regular basis while maintaining a positive work mentality: something I am more than capahle of performing.

It often seems that the only criteria candidates have in mind when dreaming up their platforms is that they appear eye-catching or revolutionary against a new paper grey background. My only claim is that I will perform my duties, as I always have, with utmost dedication when you elect me as Vice President Administration on March 31st.

Clubs Commissioner

Matt Arduini

Hi everyone, my name is Matt Arduini and I am running for Clubs Commissioner. I am proud to say that, for the last two years, I've been President of the Italian Club of Erindale (I. C. E.) and have had a great deal of experience in running successful events. These include pub nights, formals, and cultural events. It is this experience and leadership that I intend to share with clubs to make them just as successful.

A major issue for many cluhs is funding. I intend to increase cluh funding, but also want to help clubs find funds outside of ECSU. My goal is to help clubs achieve funding from external sources for ensured success.

This ties into the next issue - educating cluh executives. I plan on having clinics for all clubs, new and old, to show them how to run a successful cluh with topics ranging from planning events to preparing financial sheets, to conducting successful meetings. The clubs commissioner is there to provide a service and this is one way I plan on achieving that.

Lastly, and most importantly, I plan on creating a cluhs committee. It's not enough for one person alone to have a large say in what happens with regards to cluhs. This committee would, ideally, provide greater insight to all issues and allow all clubs to have an input on what happens.

Vote for a leader! Vote for Matt Arduini for Clubs Commissioner!

Safia Farouk

My name is Safia Farouk and I'm running for Clubs Commissioner on ECSU for the 2005/2006 academic year! My plan is to revolutionize this position so that clubs have a useful outlet to vent frustrations, and a person to help them find SOLUTIONS to their problems! It is no secret that clubs have been ignored during this past year! I believe clubs are ESSENTIAL to the student life on our campus! I intend to advocate for increased club funding, more advertising space and resources, as well as increase cluhs participation in Orientation Week 2005! I plan to work closely with other student organizations so that BIGGER and BETTER events can be initiated on campus to increase CAMPUS LIFE as a whole! I have experience and passion, which enahles me to succeed at this position. During this past year, I was the Deputy Chair of the Cluhs Committee for SAC overseeing cluh funding and was also the Minister of Student Life. I planned, organized and executed various events on campus, including the First Annual "Unity Through Diversity" week and Culture Show, "Winterfest 2005" Spirit Week, and the First Annual "Health Week." I plan to advocate for increased cluh participation in these and other events for next year! If you have any questions/comments, please feel free to e-mail me at: safia_farouk@rogers.com! I look forward to hearing from you! COME OUT AND VOTE, and help me initiate the REVOLUTION OF STUDENT LIFE @ UTM!

Acclaimed to Services Coordinator

Last year was huge, this year we're gonna STAY HUGE! Orientation Week 2005, watch for it!

<<Warren Wai

Acclaimed to Advertising Director

My name is Igor Mazic and I am a 3rd year student doing a CCIT specialist and an Economics major. I was hired as the interim ECSU Advertising Director this past February and have acclaimed the position for the 2005-2006 school year. My goal for next year is to keep on improving the recently revamped advertising policy. In my short time at ECSU, I have reorganized and cleaned up the existing boards, and have re-styled the ECSU Medium ads. Next year I plan to further improve the ECSU advertising policy and create and an ECSU Advertising Team to further advance the effectiveness of ECSU advertising.

Igor Mazic>>

Features

Expressive Photography

By Miron Lulic

Guilt

By Steve Elshaw

Guilt Pray Eat Drink Work Play Sleep
Guilt Eat Drink Work Play Sleep
Guilt Drink Work Play Sleep
Guilt Work Play Sleep
Guilt Play Sleep
Guilt Sleep
Guilt

UTM Women's Centre

UTM Women's Centre

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, March 29
2-3pm in Student Centre Boardroom

Agenda:
1. Year in review
2. Budget
3. Vote on changes/ additions to constitution
4. Rehiring/firing of co-ordinators
5. Scholarship and bursary allocation
6. Q & A
7. Adjournment

For more information please email: *utmwomencentre@hotmail.com*
Attn: Melissa Panuelos
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Bernstein: West Side Story Overture
Shostakovich: Symphony No. 5

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Roberto Plano

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Expressive Photography

BY MIRON LULIC

Bubbly Clouds

Frozen Swan Lake

Discoloration

BY LORNA SLOUKJI

She's broken.
Like a crystal vase
Shattered

In a million pieces,
On a dirty ground.
Transparency becomes

Tainted

Mind, body, soul
Stained

With fear,
Uncertainty.

A Plea For Peace

BY YVETTE BOCHAR

Quiet -
Better to leave
Unsaid,
What has been
Undone.
Leave it
Behind.

Early Bird

BY MATEUS KUSIBA

Bluebird calls out
In the morning
Sings out to the blue sky
a hundred bugs just sit
As dawn listens

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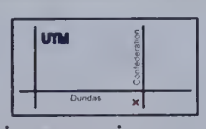

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HALF A STRAND OF HAIR

<<< Diana Harasimowicz

The ripple-edge walls of the desert parlor layer from yellow to purple slabs that stretch to meet a red ceiling. My coffee-stained napkin reads Demetrie's. A couple laughs as they walk in and grab a menu. Betty - she looks like a 'Betty' -her smooth, shiny hair just passes her shoulders and her trendy sweater looks one size too big. The oversized menu looks even larger cradled against her. Hugo - could have no other name - his eyes support a blank emotionless gaze fixed on the large and colorful menu.

Betty reaches in front of her and places her menu on the circular table. She folds her arms and sighs.

"Um, how long do you think we've been waiting to get served? I think the waiter is avoiding us or something."

"Oh, totally." Hugo says. "I think he hates us." Betty laughs.

"You think everybody hates us." She brushes her fingers through her hair and tucks a few strands behind her ears. Hugo looks up and smiles

"I have no doubt about it. He just took one look at us, and..." Hugo yawns.

The waiter walks to their table. His blemished and shiny skin contrasts his dry and spiky brown hair.

"Have you decided?"

"Um, yes." Betty smiles. "Could we please have the Brownie... um..."

"The Brownie Points?" the waiter says.

"Yes! Yes, Brownie Points." Betty giggles. "Oh, only... only, we don't' want the ice cream that goes with it, we want... um... um... the, uh... the... damn it, what's it called again?" she leans forward, grabs the menu, and flings the flaps open to the center. "Peanut... Peanut Butter Truffle! That's it! Ha! I'm so sorry. I guess I'm a little tongue-tied today. Oh, and we're sharing. Thanks so much."

The waiter grabs the menus from Betty's hands and walks away.

"Funny how he didn't ask if we'd like anything else," Hugo says.

"Yeah." Betty frowns. "Oh, my god. What if he really does hate us?"

"Oh, he does. I just know it." Hugo shakes his head. "I want a drink. Did you notice how he didn't give us the cocktail-menu, either?"

They mumble and snicker loudly. They laugh at jokes I don't get, about people I don't know, about the past. Betty flails her arms as she talks. Hugo laughs violently.

Fifteen minutes later the waiter carries a slice of cake and a scoop of ice cream to their table and places it in front of Betty.

"What the fuck is this?" Hugo looks at the slice. Betty pouts and creases her eyebrows together.

"Um.. that's pretty small. Ridiculously small. All the other Demetires' that we go to have a slice that is five times the size of this slice, easy. Did I not say that this was for two?" Hugo grabs a fork and stabs the cake.

"A disgrace! A complete and utter, total disgrace. This is a fucking insult. I'm not even fucking speaking with exaggeration, when I say, that this slice, is smaller than a single 'dieter's slice, meaning like, for one person, let alone for two." Hugo waves his fork in the air. and prods the ice cream. "This thing is the size of a hair."

Betty squints and nods her head. "We should just send this back. Let's just... eat the ice cream until he gets here."Hugo's eyes and mouth gap open

"No, no, we can't send it back."

"Yes. We can and we are. We are sending it back! I think we should take a stand here. We always put up with shit like this!"

"Yeah, but he isn't going to take it back just cause it's too small."

"But he should." Betty pounds her fist on the table, which sounds off a soft tap. She winces, sighs and leans her back into her chair. Hugo scoops ice cream into his mouth. Betty nudges the scoop with her fork. "You know..."

"What?"

Betty smiles. "You know... we could..." she smiles wider, leans in and whispers something.

"No. No I'd feel too guilty." Hugo smiles.

Betty smiles even more. Her cheeks turn pink. She stomps her feet and claps her hands. "Yes. Oh, this would be so good. It's totally, like, the perfect slice of victory. Lets do it."

"Honestly. Where will we find broken glass? Besides, you could just... I dunno, send it back, with a hair in it." Hugo shoves a bit of ice cream into his mouth.

"And they'll take it back?"

"Oh, sure" He covers his mouth. He swallows. "I've done it before, I mean, I once got this meal with a hair, and I got it replaced. It's a foreign particle of DNA. You aren't expected to eat someone else's dirty, foreign follicle. I once even got a free Godiva ice-cream bar from a grocery store, because half way through I bit into an eyelash - that was clearly not mine - and I got a new one." He leans forward and lowers his chin, "An eyelash!"

"Hmm..." Betty looks at the Demetrie's staff, standing and laughing behind the counter. She runs her fingers though her hair.

She fingers her hair, presses her nails against it and plucks it. The strand curls. She bites it in half, holds it in her fingers and flings the other part onto the table.

"There, clearly foreign." Betty smirks, looks around and places the string of hair onto her fork. She brushes the fork twice, against the slice, and drops the fork. Betty stares, waves, coughs and motions the waiter to come over. He seems to not see or hear her.

"Um, we were about to, well, we were eating this cake, and um, its just that, we saw a hair and we were wondering if... we could get a different slice."

"Where?" The waiter leans over the slice. Betty turns the plate and points to the strand. "Oh, okay, I'll just get you a new slice, then." He turns around.

"Thank you, oh, and... wait. Um, not to be any trouble, but, there are two of us, could you please make sure the slice is big enough? Oh, and he would like a cocktail-menu, if it isn't too much trouble, please."

"Oh. You mean, a list of alcoholic beverages?"

"Yes, please. Sorry, thanks." The waiter frowns and walks away. Betty smiles, and turns to Hugo. "I was so pleased with my performance!" She frowns "I don't think he bought it, though."

"He was so rude. He totally doubted it." Hugo sips Betty's water.

"Yeah, but you know what? Who cares?"

"Fuck it." Hugo waves his hand in the air. "At least now we can have our cake."

"And eat it too." Betty adds. They laugh.

"Do you think we'll get more ice cream?" Hugo asks.

"We certainly should. Considering everything." She puckers her lips.

The waiter returns and drops the plate on the table.

"Oh my fucking god!" Hugo clenches his teeth and bangs his palms against the corner of the table. Betty laughs.

"This is fucking smaller than the last one. And there's no ice cream. Fuck!"

"Let's just eat the damn slice and go." Betty sighs.

"No, no. This isn't poetic justice." Hugo laughs and slaps the table. Betty shrugs and squints. "What?"

Hugo laughs harder.

"What?"

"No, nothing. It's just..." He laughs some more. "You've totally got to appreciate the irony in this." Hugo's teary eyes meet hers. "Isn't it strange. how through our 'delicious crime' you sent it back, cause it was too small, and they give us a smaller one?"

"I guess we can't avoid being cheated." Betty huffs. "I'm never coming back here again." Betty twists her lips and raises her eyebrows.

"You should start barking and making crazy noises, just have a total fit! Yell and say, that 'the slice we received - for the two of us - was smaller than a strand of hair, which to that matter, was found on that slice and you sent it back, only to get a worse one'. Tell him how outraged you are and he should treat the customer damn well, instead of ignoring us and giving us these pitiful slices and that you demand to talk to his manager, oh and P.S. Here's a piece of glass! Fucker!"

Betty slaps the table and snorts. Her face turns red. She takes her fork and shaves a piece off the cake. "B-Bark like a dog?" she giggles, "Should I scream too?" She puts the bite into her mouth.

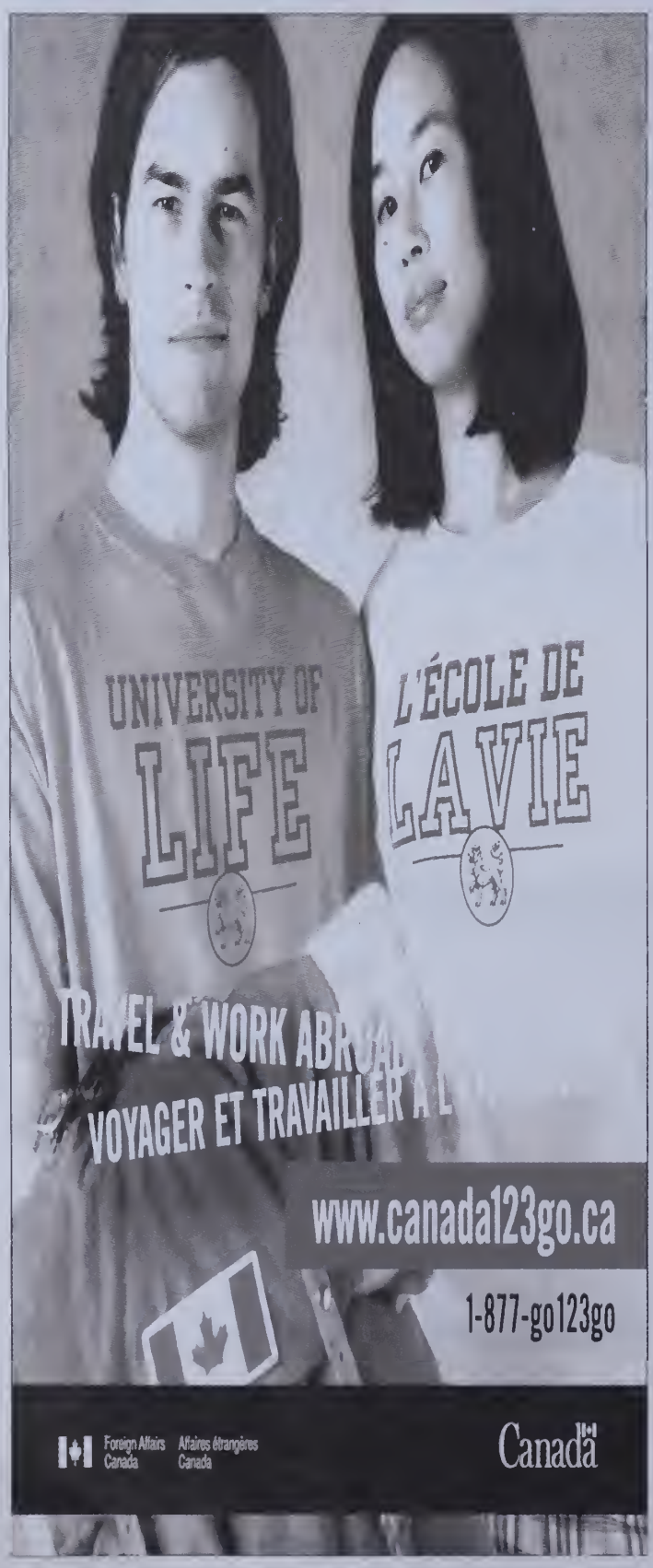
"Totally, all the more convincing it will be." Hugo scoops a piece into his mouth.

"Let's just eat the damn thing and go."

"Fuck. I don't think that will be a problem, we only took two bites. That leaves, what? One?"

Hugo sighs. He twirls his fingers in the air and mouths 'cheque'. He pulls his wallet out of his pocket. Hugo places a ten-dollar bill on the table.

"I'm not leaving him a tip." Betty says, as she pulls out some change. Hugo nods his head. Betty zips up her purse and pulls her coat on. A bit of light glimmers on half a strand of curly hair, resting on the table.



THE MEDIUM

2005 Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Your campus newspaper is hosting an AGM and we want you to attend!

Who: Any and All UTM students
What: The Medium's Annual General Meeting
When: Thursday March 24 @ 4 p.m.
Where: Student Centre Board Room (2nd Floor)
Why: A chance for UTM students – who partially fund the paper through their incidental fees - to review and comment on the publication of The Medium over the past academic year as well as to vote on approving or disapproving of the newspaper's audited financial statements.

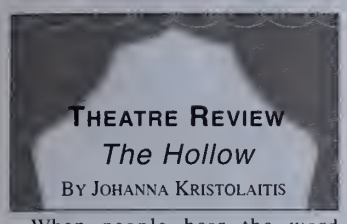
For more info please email editor@mediumonline.ca or call 905.828.5260

Agenda:
1) A Year in Review – Statement by the Editor-in-Chief
2) Presentation and Vote on Audited Financial Statements
3) A Year in Review – Brief Statements by each member of the Editorial Board
4) 2005/06 Editorial Board Elections
5) Question & Answer period
6) Adjournment

FREE PIZZA AND POP FOR ALL IN ATTENDANCE!!!

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

A visit to *The Hollow* shows a tragically parallel world at war



When people hear the word "clowns," they often think of the goofy circus performers who entertain the crowd, mainly the kids, with slapstick humour. When people hear "audience participation," they often think of children's theatre. Michael Kennard's creation, *The Hollow*, has plenty of both these elements, yet is far from happy-go-lucky children's entertainment.

Clowns (children of god) and Bouffon (children of the devil) are two very different styles of clowning, and they are pitted against each other in this play as warring factions of the land of Lebar, with the seat of power residing in a sacred cave called The Hollow. Queen Andmoth (played endearingly by Natalie Breton), ruler of the Lebarians (Clowns), wants to sign a peace treaty with Queen Rabiccanno (also played by Natalie Breton), ruler of the Rabiccanno (Bouffon), to end the years of battle between their peoples.

Draziw (played by the multifaceted Christian Laurin), her grandson who is in charge of their army, doesn't trust the peace process and secretly orders retaliation against the attacks on their home and supply lines. His sister, Tifulbeau (played charmingly by Christel Bartelse), is a ray of goodness as she does all she can to help bring peace and keep her brother's vengeance at bay. Unfortunately, peace and war are more complicated than good will.

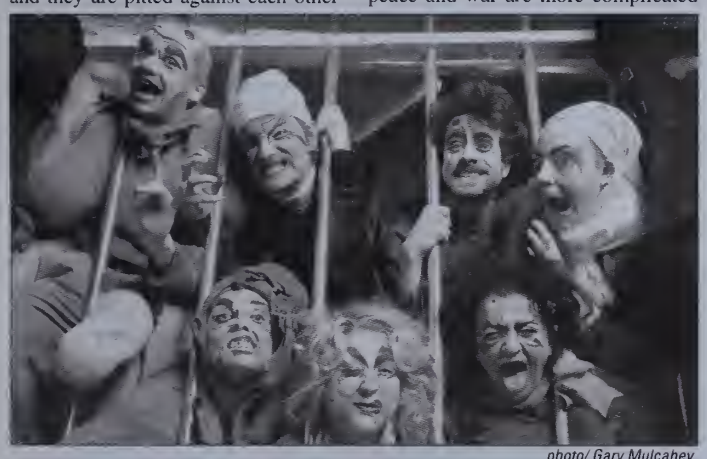
We see the results of the ongoing war mainly through the Rabiccanno prisoners (an immensely talented group of performers) who are let out of the Hollow's dungeon to entertain the royal Lebarian family, which they do through a number of songs and dances. The most dramatic instances of violence are when Boff (played compassionately by Christina Sicoli) emerges from a supply crate to free her fellow Rabiccanno from captivity shortly before intermission, and at the end of the play when... actually, I'll let you see for yourself (and I suggest you do).

Kennard had the idea for this story back in 1991, when the first Gulf War began. The story has now come to life through the collaboration of the cast and the help of several Clown and Bouffon coaches (John Turner, Mark Christmann and Adam Lazarus), as well as guidance in voice (David Smukler) and stage combat (Victoria Goring). The songs, mostly written and/or arranged by Michael Barber (who also created the soundscape) complement the physicality on the stage and work well into the themes of the show.

It's the kind of show where anything could and very likely will happen. Clowning allows the freedom to try entrances or other stage bits again if they don't quite work. Also, it depends on connection with the audience, and some audience members get more connected than others as cast members sit beside or on them. You get the sense that *The Hollow* is never the same show twice, which is why I hope to see it again. I encourage you all to visit this parallel land of Lebar in these times of conflict. One word of warning: if you're shy, sit at the back.

The Hollow plays at the Berkeley Street Theatre Downstairs (26 Berkeley St) until April 9, 2005.

For more info: 416.368.3110



photo/ Gary Mulcahey

Rabiccanno prisoners in their cell. Front: Stephanie Lalor, Christina Sicoli and Suzette Araujo. Back: Aron DeCasmaker, Jason Thompson, Bruce Horak and Jessica Barrera.

Christina clowns around

Christina Sicoli, cast member of *The Hollow*, spoke to ***Johanna Kristolaitis*** about making a living as a clown.

So you're a U of T alumni?

I went to U of T for two years and then switched to theatre school. I went to Randolph academy for performing arts. This past summer I picked up a course to slowly finish my degree.

How did you get into clowning?

I started after theater school. I met my clowning partner and we formed our own duo and started studying with Mike [Kennard, the director/creator of The Hollow] and John [Turner, part of the clown duo Mump + Smoot with Kennard] and also with Sue Morrison. This was about two to three years ago.

What have you done as a clowning duo?

We did our first show in 2001. We've produced, created and performed in four fully mounted shows. Our most recent show was Stuck at the Toronto Fringe Festival a couple years ago. It received a lot of acclaim and played to sold out audiences. We got nominated for a Canadian comedy award for another show we did. We continue to perform in a number of shows in the GTA, as well as around the country. We did a short show at Second City, the Clod-hopper comedy hour, with the Rumoli Brothers. We just incorporate all of our training into our shows – theatre, music, dance, clown, sketch comedy.

What was the process like for putting The Hollow together?

It was amazing. We went into workshop rehearsals over a month ago. We started with meeting once a week, getting different exercises to work on. After about four weeks we went into a six-day full days rehearsal process. Every day started with a warm-up, like yoga, then we moved on to vocals. Mike would do a lot of exercises with us, such as silent scenes, and physical exercises to get us into our bodies. And we got to just play with our clowns a lot. It was a very physical process. As the weeks went on, we broke into different scenes. Mike brought different coaches in to work with us, some I had worked with before, and it was great to work with them again.

What's next for you?

I'm doing a show at the end of April at Second City's Tim Sims Playhouse, called Plan Live. Check out our website:

www.theburntmarshmallows.com

ECSU
ERINDALE COLLEGE STUDENT UNION

Erindale College Student Union News and Notes

CPR-a-thon Fundraiser for the Erindale College Special Response Team (ECSpeRT)
Thursday March 24, 2005. 10:00am - 4:00pm
Student Centre Presentation Room.

CANADIAN BLOOD SERVICES
BLOOD DONOR CLINIC
Here is your opportunity to save lives.
Thursday March 31, 11:30 am 4:00 pm
in the Student Centre

UTM Transportation Survey
Please take a minute and participate in theUTM Transportation Survey on ecsu.ca. Your feedback is important to all at Erindale. Those who participate will be entered into a raffle draw.

ECSU is looking for Poll Clerks for the upcoming election.
Submit your resume to cro@ecsu.ca

ECSU FILM FESTIVAL
Monday March 21, 6 pm
in the presentation room
Come out and see some of UTM's finest student Films.
- FREE ADMISSION -

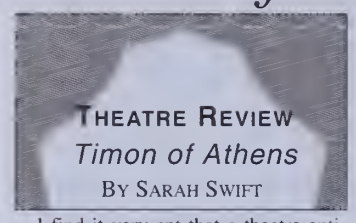
Help eliminate racial discrimination
Monday March 21 @ 10 am
In the presentation room

SLEF Logo Contest
Vote for your favourite logo on ecsu.ca!

ECSU Referendum & Elections
ECSU will hold their annual elections along with a referendum on March 30-31 regarding the issues of incidental fees, the ECSU constitution, and ECSpeRT. There will also be a plebiscite regarding the UTM Transportation Protocol. Please come out and vote!

www.ecsu.ca

Timon of Athens gives generous performances



By Sarah Swift

I find it very apt that a theatre entitled "The Alchemy," an ancient chemical practice of transmuting base metals into gold, would choose to put on one of Shakespeare's most under-celebrated works, his base metal if you will, and succeed in turning it into gold.

Timon of Athens, directed by Simon Michellepis, is as unique as the location it takes place in: a former garage turned theatre and yoga studio. The best way to locate The Alchemy is to band together with other lost souls wandering confusedly up and down Tecumseth Street in search of their prize, and wait for Simon (also the proprietor of The Alchemy) to emerge from within and direct the flock to a bland, graffitied building with a blink-and-you'll-miss-it sign proclaiming it, indeed, as The Alchemy. First-timers: best to come before dark.

Once inside the building, however, all fears are relinquished. Theatres in any form are magical places, and this one has a certain spark (possibly left over from one of the garage's many sparkplugs). It is a simple place where simple people come together to tell a story and hopefully entertain an audience while they're at it. But the people here are anything but simple; some, I daresay, are extraordinary.

Chris Coculuzzi as Timon of Athens communicates the tale of greed, betrayal and loss with remarkable poignancy. He is both commanding and pitiful in the role, with just the right balance of macabre to complete the shift in his character. It is difficult to draw one's eyes away from him.

The struggle between economy and friendship is a story of great relevance to today. Timon is a rich aristocrat of Athens' upper class, indulgent in the finer things, but also generous in dispersing his wealth amongst his friends. However, when Timon's fortunes squander, he is left with no choice but to ask his friends to help him clear his debts. They refuse, and Timon progressively deteriorates, both financially and emotionally, disheartened by their unreturned display of friendship. It is the classic tale of knowing who one's true friends are.

There is no shortage of talent in this production. Many of the players in this piece are classically trained actors who, very capably, found ways to connect with the audience and simplify the text. Even those who do not posses a deep understanding of Shakespeare's words will find themselves enjoying the production with ease. While there are too many involved in the production to praise, some honourable mentions go to Jennifer Finestone as Apemantus the Philosopher and Evan Steingarten as Timon's faithful steward. Also involved is a graduate of the joint UTM/Sheridan Drama Program, Derek Genova as Senator Caphis.

Of course, despite their apparent efforts, it proved difficult to conceal their miniscule budget. For starters, the costumes left something to be desired; the inexpensive fabrics composing the traditional Athenian garb were obvious and something of a distraction on stage. Props were sparse and looked homemade, and while many characters from Shakespeare's original cast list were eliminated completely, several actors found themselves playing double, sometimes triple parts. This became a very confusing element of the play.

But rather than focusing in on these small adversities, there is an overriding factor: the ensemble is what really makes the show worth your two hours, and they delivered. The casting fit the bill, the staging was superb given the small space, and production shot par. Some cues, both technical and verbal, were a bit off, but I suspect they will tighten up as the performances go on.

My only suggestion would be a change in the curtain call theme music; somehow N-Trance's rendition of "Stayin' Alive" just didn't cut it considering the tragedy we had just witnessed. It was as if Michellepis arbitrarily decided to pluck this beautiful moment of reverence that had come over the audience, hurl it to the ground, pour gasoline on it, and light a match. Of course, it might be interesting to investigate what other ironical additions might occur as the run continues, which I would do happily.

Timon of Athens runs at The Alchemy Theatre (133 Tecumseth St, one block south-west of Queen and Bathurst) until April 3, 2005. The performance is approximately two hours in length with no intermission and general seating. For advance tickets call 416.998.7503 or e-mail: info@alchemytoronto.com.

PAUSE for *Hot Snatch* fun

By Theo Waters

Tuesday March 8 was one of the best nights to be in the Blind Duck Pub all year. P.A.U.S.E. put on their annual Variety night, which featured eleven groups competing for a $100 prize for best performance, as voted by the crowd. The place was packed. The pub featured cheap beer, live bands and a fabulous silent auction, which brought students out of their dorms for a change.

The variety night also featured performances by members of the psychology department including Professor Dax and Dr. Jeff. They were certainly the crowd favourites, playing both classic and contemporary rock.

"It's just so cool to see a prof up their rockin' out," said student Mike Baxter, who attended the event. "It's like seeing a dog walk on its hind legs."

The beer flowed like wine as the performances went late into the night. The highlight of the evening was definitely when **Hot Snatch Revolution** mounted the stage. The crowd roared as the American Bangladeshi combination set up their equipment. They dedicated their set to Hunter S. Thompson, the great gonzo journalist who recently committed suicide and will be fired out of a cannon as stipulated by his will next week.

The rock gods, known as Anan and Theo to their friends, launched into a folk rendition of the song "Gin and Juice" by **Snoop Doggy Dogg**. The crowed loved it. Chants of "Snatch!" echoed through our pub for the first time in its existence. A Hot Snatch groupie, who preferred to admire in secret and not be named, recalled "they looked like two men possessed, it was so hot. If Anan is single I'm gonna find him." By the way, ladies, he is single.

"Ben Flash (another performer that night) was amazing, two dollar beer is amazing, and Hot Snatch is amazing," said Anan and Theo about the evening. Later that night when the winner was announced it was no surprise to hear Hot Snatch Revolution called to the stage. Visibly drunk, they stumbled on stage and accepted their prize. They graciously thanked the crowed and went on their way.

As a student, I often feel like there isn't much for me to look forward to on this campus. The P.A.U.S.E. Variety night showed me two things: 1) that we need more events like Variety night, and 2) I love Hot Snatch.

CD Review
Selena 7ty Six,
This Girl's Life

By Tina Hung

What kinds of thoughts does an artist carrying a guitar provoke in your mind? For me, I think of heart-warming vocals in the presence of a softly plucked guitar accompaniment. I should have thought twice, however; after all, her name is **Selena 7ty 6**, more R&B/Rap than anything else, right? Bingo. The next thing I know, only three of the fourteen songs on her album have that lovely combination of vocals and guitar accompaniment, while the rest are mixtures of R&B/Rap beats and one with a Bob Marley tune. It's like opening a pack of Skittles and finding only three inside, the rest M&Ms and a single gumdrop. It doesn't work like that, or if it worked for other artists, it sure as hell didn't work for her.

While I'm at it, I might as well criticize whoever came up with the names for her songs that I like most: "Lovesong," "Lifesong," and "Redemption Song." Either the person lacked creativity or they employed an eight-year-old. Then there's "Girl's Nite Out" in which the beat is annoying and one of her riffs was purposely off-tune. Unfortunately it doesn't end there. Another song ends sounding like a classical piece because Selena employs a staccato vocal technique.

Despite all the negative things, I do have a positive thing to say. Her voice is lovely and at best when accompanied by the guitar with little or none of the extra beats and excess musical add-ons that were used throughout the album. But I'd spend my money elsewhere.

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Trachtenberg rules as *Ice Princess*

MOVIE REVIEW:
Ice Princess
BY ADAM DOMENCHINI

Michelle Trachtenberg has come a long way since her days of tip-toeing around the melodrama of daytime and nighttime television as a second string supporting actress. Now dubbed by Teen People Magazine as one of "20 Teens Who Will Change the World," Trachtenberg's ambition and dedication to entertainment is highlighted by a unique versatility and a willingness to discover brave, yet interesting roles.

Whether she's experimenting as a member of a girlhood clique in an independent film (*Mysterious Skin*) or bearing some cleavage as a love-struck minx in heat for a blockbuster comedy (*Eurotrip*), she seems to find her niche no mater what the role. Her bona fide 'hottie' look meets girl-next-door attitude will make her rise into the upper echelon of fame and stardom.

So which piece of the Hollywood pie has now taken an interest in endorsing this young star? You guessed it: Disney. In their new release, *Ice Princess*, the grandfather company and entertainment guru signed Trachtenberg to star in what may be described as a two hour conglomeration of action, comedy, drama, family, romance, blah, blah, blah (yes – the list is endless). Having a smorgasbord of genres is no drawback for this 2005 release.

In *Ice Princess*, we see Trachtenberg as Casey Carlyle, an overwhelmingly nerdy physics wiz, whose aptitude for science and long-time passion for figure skating collide in her final year of high school. With aspirations of attending the best university in the country, she discovers that Harvard is issuing an academic scholarship that may present her with the best of both worlds. Her dilemma is challenging: she must find a way to express physics in a unique and personal manner. However, the solution seems simple enough – to wow Harvard interviewers by demonstrating how applying concepts in physics can improve one's ability to figure skate. Is it really that simple?

Casey soon finds that she is somewhat of a natural at the sport herself, having spent years practicing on a pond close to home. Living and breathing the project for months, she now must find a way to juggle her school work, 5 a.m. skating practices, a deadbeat fast order cook job, a brewing love interest, and the conflicting views of an unsupportive mother (Joan Cusack) and a flamboyant coach (Kim Cattrall), all while surviving on a skater's diet that would probably starve a hamster.

When her inner demons conflict, she brushes off her full scholarship to Harvard (do you need me to repeat that?) to chase her dream of figure skating glory. Making it now is all dependent on her body and sanity holding up, and whether she has the heart to pull through.

I'd probably have to comb the ice sheets of Antarctica to find a single young female who wouldn't like this

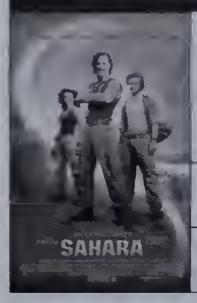
photo/Rafy, copyright Disney 2005
Casey (Trachtenberg) and Nikki (Kirsten Olson) go over some *Ice* cool moves.

film. If you're that age, what's not to like about it? It has a lot of figure skating action, female friendships, great music, hunky young studs with the sex drive of rabid apes, an inspirational message about the strength of family bonds and fulfilling lifelong dreams, and a lead, female character that can do the type of physics that would make Einstein look like a dork. The plot is even original and fresh enough to make the little girl in me get goose bumps.

But unless you're sporting pigtails yourself, this film, on a whole, may not be the caliber of Hollywood you've grown accustomed to. Oddly enough, it also sends some 'questionable' messages to the audience. Namely, what kind of movie directed at a younger and more influential demographic would choose to endorse the idea of chasing your dreams over concentrating on your education? Or starving yourself on water and dust bunnies just so you can spin not just three, but four times in the air? Puzzling to say the least, especially coming from Disney. Despite this, young sisters, cousins, daughters, and the like will probably spend all of their babysitting and tooth fairy money on Disney's *Ice Princess*.

By far the brightest spot of the film is Trachtenberg. With the look, the talent, and a hot bod to boot, look for her to gain a lot of momentum and slingshot into 2005 off the box-office success of this film.

Come and get it!



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Sports

Toronto Rock sting Arizona 18-10

BY NEIL MENESES

Bruce Codd, assistant captain and defenseman for the Arizona Sting, summed up their loss to the Toronto Rock last Friday by saying.

"Basically it was our work ethic, even when it was 6-6 at the half; we were still getting out-shot and out-loose balled, just came down to work more than anything." Codd said.

The team, as a whole, seemed to get their stingers plucked after the first quarter in a big Toronto Rock win, 18-10.

And just what happened? Well, the Arizona Sting rolled into the rowdy Air Canada Center and played the Toronto Rock, four time NLL Champions. The Rock's power play scored four times on seven chances.

The teams looked even at first. The first half ended tied at 6-6. The Sting played especially hard in the first quarter. Sting starting goalie Mike Miron looked solid, stopping 14 Rock shots. Sting leading scorer Dan Dawson scored twice. He boosted himself to sixth in league scoring with 58 points.

Meanwhile, the Rock, despite their decibel destroying fans, looked discombobulated and disinterested. But the Rock matched the sting in the second quarter. As team captain Colin Doyle mentioned after the game,

"We start finishing our chances upfront. We had lots of chances in the first half, their goalie played really well, then we finally starting hitting some spots and scoring some goals."

The teams entered the second half tied 6-6. The Sting's defense began to mirror the Rock's defense in the first. They left Rock forwards like Colin Doyle, Blaine Manning and Josh Sanderson untouched, letting them cut to center of their defensive end for easy goals. The three star forwards (ranked third, fifth, and sixth in league scoring respectively) combined for four of the Rock's six goals in the third, and nine of the Rock's overall goals.

The Rock, perhaps finally inspired by the raucous sell-out crowd, played more physical in the third. The turning point came when 6'6 defenseman Dan Ladouceur cranked Dan Dawson as he tried to slash his way to the slot area from the side boards.

However, for a moment, the checking and slashing may have turned too fervent. Up 9-7, the Rock's John Rosa leveled a Sting forward into the boards from behind. The crowd cheered but the crew chief blew his whistle. The Sting score twice on the PP to tie game 9-9.

The Sting looked poised to regain the lead, until Chris McKay took a dumb holding the stick penalty shortly after the Sting's tying goal. Manning scored twice on the power play to put the Rock up 11-9. They scored another before quarter's end and never looked back.

The Sting's weakest totals of the game came at a time when they needed their strongest performance. They mustered only nine shots and one goal in the fourth quarter. Watson, although tested sparsely, made a huge save on a three on one rush for the Sting. He dropped to his knees and trapped the Sting point blank attempt with his thighs.

As fans began to exit the building late in the fourth Brock Robertson of the Sting and Tim O'Brien of the Rock scraped. Robertson may have landed a punch or two more in what seemed a pretty much useless grappling-fest. The Rock, in an arrogant move, switched goalies with the score 17-10. The home team took the win and looked good, albeit a little classless.

Regardless of the score, Miron played well for the Sting. He stopped 41 of the Rock's 59 shots. Watson, as usual, played stellar in net for the Rock. Captain Doyle, when asked what won the game for his team, simply stated, "Goaltending." Watson stopped 32 Sting shots.

The Rock, now in second place in the East division at seven wins and three losses, play the first place Buffalo Bandits next week.

The Sting, only one game above .500 at 6-5, have a tough couple games ahead of them. They play the west division first placed Calgary Roughnecks back to back. However, assistant captain Bruce Codd feels optimistic about the Sting's playoff position.

"We're still in a good spot, 6-5; we're in a playoff spot in our division. Once you get into the playoffs anything can happen, so I like our chances."

Eagles fly to title game

By Christina Khoury

Wednesday, March 16, 2005. I step into the gym to catch the Men's Division 1 semi-final game versus UTSC. I dodge my way around the outside of the court, over to the UTM team bench.

The bleachers in the gym brim over with UTM fans. The energy, continuing from the women's game earlier, is thrown upon the men now. Sitting on the sidelines, I'm hoping that I don't end up under a pile of players. I quickly realize I don't have to worry. Why should I? Our UTM men hustle the ball out of our zone so often, I could probably sit in our key and be safe.

The men perform sharply through the first twenty minute half. The team shuffles through a line change and second year point guard Arash Moghani parks himself on the bench.

"We're playing tough defense, spreading the ball around like a team, causing turnovers and playing disciplined," breathes number 23.

5:10 remains in the first half. The score is 40-22 in UTM's favor. Six fouls for home, and eight for the visitors.

Meanwhile on the court, number 55 Tom McCulloch delivers one outstanding block after another. The team howls for McCulloch, and begins a reprise for its players, chanting "DEFENSE! DEFENSE!" to quicken the pace.

If Ross Morrow pinky swore to defend the team with iron wall posts, he would sure have a lot on the line. After some superb posting, the ball knocks Morrow's pinky straight out of alignment. Pressing an icepack to the war wound, Morrow tells me,

"I was posting up and the ball just tipped my finger..."

Assistant coach, Vishal Gupta, watches on with a smile.

"They're playing a fantastic game and executing every play to perfection," he says. "Also, (coach) Anish Bhalla is a great motivation behind our players' drive."

As for the happy ending...at the end of the second twenty minute half, our UTM men secure a 91-56 victory over UTSC launching themselves into the championship game on March 28, 2005.

Post-game, coach Anish Bhalla collects ballots for MVP, proud that, "the guys played very well as a team. They utilized what we worked on in practice and there was great cohesion between the players. All lines played with dedication and effort."

I notice a tattooed eagle wrapped around a player's arm. After shutting down some of UTSC's swing-men, number 25 settles on the bench. I ask about his tattoo. "It's an eagle with his wings spread," says small forward Marius Stankiewicz, "and under the eagle, it says the world is mine."

Just like the eagle, the Men's Division 1 team slapped their own tattoo right onto that gym floor. Going into the championships, the resilient team slams, dunks and manhandles as though the world really is theirs.

photo/ Allison King

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Lady Eagles win first intramural b-ball title

BY JACK KRIST

The Division 1 Basketball team captured UTM's first Women's U of T Intramural title this semester as they got by New College.

With UTMAC promoting the game with a Chris Bosh jersey giveaway, the stands were packed with screaming fans. The team seemed to feed off the energy of the crowd. Great outside shooting got the UTM team and the crowd fired up. Steph Kishimoto had two big threes and ten points to lead UTM in the first half. UTM guard Shelley Roque had eight points in the first, while forward Steph VandeVen and post Lindsey Sones added six points each to give UTM a 28-20 point lead at the break.

In the second half the crowd got louder and UTM seemed to play stronger. However, the New team would not give up and despite being down by eight late, they hit some big shots to pull within two points with under one minute to play.

UTM sank just enough foul shots to win, as they went 7 for 19 in the game with all 7 made free throws coming in the second half and many down the stretch. In the end the UTM team and their fans could not be beat as they held on for a 51-48 win.

Laura Desveaux came up with the hot hand for UTM in the second half, hitting two big threes and netting eight points in the half. The leading scorer for UTM was the veteran Steph Kishimoto who had 14 points, Sones had 12 and Roque added 10 to round out the scoring. Steph VandeVen was held pointless in the second half but her outstanding defence on New's top player kept UTM ahead for the entire second half.

The entire team played a great game with great defence and tough rebounding. Diana Kwong, Jessica Fruiti, Samantha Dutka, Seema Adatia and Summer Blackman all played strong games off the bench.

photo/Jack Krist

UTM Champions

photo/Diana Kwong

UTM's division two men's volleyball team poses with their championship trophy after defeating SGS last Thursday.

photo/Natalie Ng

Butter is all smiles after once again claiming the intramural volleyball championship with a win again VESA.

'Butter' does it one more time

BY NATALIE NG

Intramural volleyball ended this week with the second week of playoffs. In the consolation round, CW beat the Jollibees, and SC Events won against the High Hitters. After a hard fought match in the finals between CW and SC Events, CW was able to take the win by a one point margin. In the playoffs, quarterfinals were played between Spiked Punch and Chess Club, and VESA and Style and Profyle. Both matches saw teams splitting wins, but VESA and Chess Club advanced as they had won by point differential. The most exciting game in the playoffs was the semifinal match between the 2nd and 3rd placed teams, Wilson and VESA. In the regular season, each suffered a loss only from Butter and from each other, as they split their contest, with Wilson coming out on top. In the anticipated rematch, Wilson came out strong and had the early lead, but VESA's persistence rewarded them with the win. With the change in momentum, VESA easily took the second game. In the other semifinal game, Chess Club did their best against Butter. They were able to block several spikes, but could not deter Butter from advancing. The finals were set between Butter, anxious for victory, and VESA, eager to challenge. In the end, Butter lived up to all expectations as even VESA could not dethrone them. Congrats to Butter on an exceptional season and another championship title.

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